

WT 11-65

LAUDERDALE COUNTY

Board of Supervisors

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410 CONSTITUTION AVENUE
MERIDIAN, MISSISSIPPI 39301
TELEPHONE (601) 482-9746
FAX (601) 482-9744
www.lauderdalecounty.org

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Board Attorney

ORIGINAL

October 17, 2011

Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Genachowski and Commissioners:

I'm writing to ask for your support of the proposed AT&T/T-Mobile merger, which is on your 11-65 docket. The outcome of this merger has the potential to be tremendously positive for my community and for the state of Mississippi.

Here in Meridian, also known as the Queen City, we enjoy a small-town lifestyle. Our community is filled with friendly neighbors and lovely historic districts where we support many arts and cultural organizations and events. There is much to love about life here, but like many smaller communities, we also face our set of challenges. With fewer opportunities available than in more populated areas, our rural economy has suffered in the current economic climate. As you might imagine, high unemployment and dwindling economic options have made things difficult for many residents and families.

Much has been said and written about the power of high-speed broadband when it comes to economic development. It is a critical tool that can bring access to new opportunities and enhance quality of life as it strengthens communities. Right now, many people in my area do not have access to reliable, high-speed wireless Internet, or to the professional and educational opportunities this access delivers. That's why I was energized when I learned about the increased connectivity this merger would bring to communities across Mississippi and the country.

This merger would allow AT&T to expand its wireless infrastructure and bring high-speed broadband technology to over 95 percent of Mississippi residents, including those in rural or small communities. This increased access would bring our people and our businesses new opportunities to create a more prosperous future. I'm excited about the prospects that this

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merger could bring to residents of Meridian and Lauderdale County, and I urge you to support the transaction.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Craig Hitt". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Craig" and last name "Hitt" clearly distinguishable.

Craig Hitt, President
Lauderdale County Board of Supervisors

CC:

Chairman Julius Genachowski

Commissioner Michael Copps

Commissioner Robert McDowell

Commissioner Mignon Clyburn